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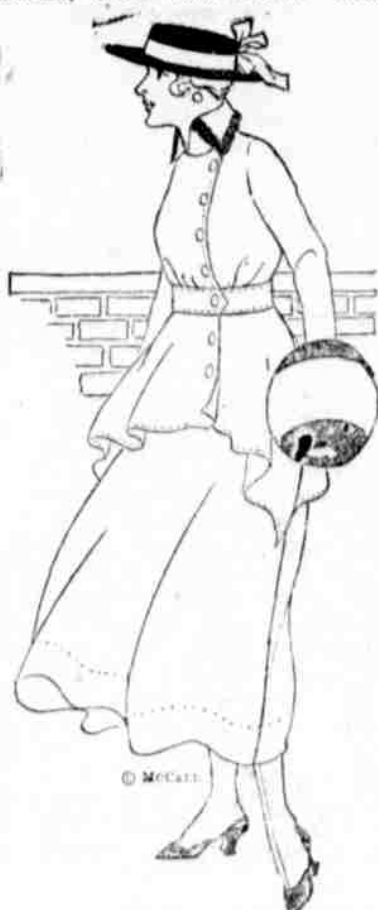
TAILORED SUITS AND EVENING FROCKS

Worn at the Two Opening Events of
the Season—Emerald Green
a Favored Color

New York, Dec. 13.—New York's social season is in full swing; it opened in a blaze of glory with the swinging back of the Metropolitan's doors late in November. This first night, as always, drew the usual brilliant, opera going audience wonderfully gowned in the soft shades so much favored for formal evening wear this winter. The white throats beautifully dressed hair, and gleaming jewels distracted the attention more than once of even the dyed in wool music lovers, who are usually immune to clothes when Caruso is to be heard.

The Favored Pale Tints

Among the prevailing shades worn by the gorgeous first nighters were pink, blue, and white, with here and there a stunning black frock, or one of vivid emerald green. This shade of green is an exception to the rule of white, or pastel shades, now so modish; there were several entire



Dark Green Velvet
Suit

gowns in this shade at the opera and the most striking and artistic costume noticed at the Horse Show, some weeks earlier, was also of this green. It is wonderfully becoming to a woman with white hair and a youthful face. Black is favored for evening too, and served as an attractive touch of contrast among the pale tones in the golden horseshoe.

costs of cloth or fur, the tailored suit, as in days gone by was most in evidence. Not the straight mannish suit entirely, although there were many of these too, but the easy line.

The Matter of Fans and Gloves
Among the most fascinating accessories accompanying these attractive costumes were the fans; these were not the small, useless fancies of several seasons past, but large graceful fans of ostrich, curled and uncurled. Many were in white, or the pastel shades; one especially attractive fan was of midnight blue, uncurled ostrich.

The matter of gloves with the sleeveless frocks, and all were sleeveless with one or two exceptions, has probably been a problem with many; white gloves, coming just above the elbow, were generally worn; now and then one noticed a pair in pale pink or deep cream to match the frock; one or two pairs of black, too were worn. The universal use of tulle, malines, or the fine meshed net was very noticeable; it was used to veil the neck and arms, as a scarf, in the hair, or billowing, pannier fashion, over the hips. The men with their black suits and white fronts made an excellent background for these pretty women and their delicately colored frocks.

Daytime Suits at the Horse Show

The daytime costumes at the Horse Show were quite as interesting as those worn in the evening. While there were many attractive one piece dresses worn under smart separate ed semitailored suit of broadcloth, gabardine, duvetyn, whip cord, and novelty checks and stripes. Many dull colored mixtures were worn, trimmed, of course, with fur or with braid.

An exceptionally effective suit of dark green duvetyn was made with a flounced skirt and flaring peplum on the coat. A wide soft collar of dark fox and a barrel muff of fox accompanied the suit. Other effective details were the matching spats, the wide velvet hat, and the nifty stick. Another tailored suit, worn the same afternoon equally simple and chic, was of dark blue gabardine made with a Russian blouse coat, and flaring skirt, trimmed with narrow bands of seal; a small ball muff of beaver and seal was carried and spats of white corresponded with the white faille ribbon on the stiff brimmed hat.

The Three Quarter Coat

This length prevails in the separate coat for daytime wear. They are of fur, or cloth, fur trimmed. When the coat is made of cloth it may contrast with or match the frock. One notices a box back now and then but the belt in some form is most generally favored. Buttons are attractive



Attractive Suit of
Gabardine

trimming, in novelty metals, gold filigree, nickel, and the like. The majority of these coats are made with normal shoulders and set in sleeves although there are many raglan models. One especially pretty coat was of broadened brown velvet, loose and falling nearly to the skirt hem, belted in with brown leather. Several leather costumes were noticed at the Horse Show one afternoon; they were worn by mannequins from one of our large dressmaking establishments, and created quite a bit of comment. Leather suits are a novelty and as such are attractive, but in all probability they will not become popular with the general run of people.

Asks Access To Carriers' Files

Increase in Powers and Membership
Suggested by Commerce
Commission

Washington, Dec. 13.—Early enlargement of the membership of the interstate commerce commission with statutory power to act through subdivisions and appropriate and adequate legislation for control over railway capitalization, were among the important recommendations made to Congress today in the commission's annual report.

The commission suggested that it should have express authority of law to have access to the letter files of carriers; that the use of steel cars in passenger trains be required and that the use in passenger trains of wooden cars between or in front of steel cars be prohibited. It was recommended that the minimum penalty for violations of the hours of service act be fixed at a fine of \$100, and that provision be made that all actions relating to transportation charges should be brought within three years.

For the fiscal year which ended on June 30 last, the commission spent \$3,933,925, including \$2,131,925 for physical valuation work. Its estimates for the year which begins July 1 next, already have been submitted to Congress.

The report is largely devoted to presenting the commission's work for the year. Under physical valuation work it reports that since June there have been twelve roadway and track parties in the field in each of five districts into which the country has been divided, and that their total average has been about 4000 miles per month. By January 1, the report says, surveys of nearly 50,000 miles of railroad will virtually be completed. The total railroad mileage of the country is put at 250,000 and the report says that the 200,000 miles left at the beginning of the year should be surveyed in the four following years under the present arrangement.

"It is doubtful," it adds, "if under the present organization, work can be prosecuted more rapidly than it is now proceeding."

The report states that the survey of 7500 miles of the Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific will be completed by January 1 with the exception of a few hundred miles in the south. Surveys of the Boston & Maine also will be completed this year. Before arriving at the actual cost to roads, however, the report declares that much more information must be obtained, and has determined to de-

ter the application of prices and the final statement in dollars of the cost of reproduction anew.

The commission expresses gratification at the decrease in the number of collisions, but says that individual instances of unsafe operating methods and violation of rules are still too numerous. It suggests a standardization of operating rules to assure safety of railway travel to be obtained through federal legislation. It shows that derailments have been on the increase and that in 1915 there were 3538 collisions and 6543 derailments, compared with 5042 collisions and 3633 derailments in 1902.

"Track conditions which are unsafe for the operation of trains at the rate of speed permitted are too common," says the report. In several of the derailments investigated the track conditions were found to be so bad as to be actually unsafe for the passage of trains even at moderate speed, yet no special speed restrictions were in force, and it was common practice for trains to be operated at unsafe speed over such track."

Early Convention Is Favored By Republicans

Reduction of Southern Representation
Approved by Apportionment
Committee

Washington, Dec. 13.—Preliminary skirmishes before the Republican national committee decides tomorrow the time and place for the 1916 Republican national convention to nominate the party's candidate for President were held here today. On the surface the only contest of importance was that of the cities seeking the convention.

After a day spent in strenuous effort on the part of the cities contesting for the convention, St. Louis and Chicago were looked upon tonight as the two most prominent in the race. Friends of San Francisco and Philadelphia apparently were ready to support the Missouri city in case of deadlock and some of the members of the committee who talked for Chicago yesterday were inclined to be less optimistic tonight. If surface indications were to be trusted the convention would go to St. Louis, but the Chicago boosters claimed not to be discouraged.

Many political leaders seemed to lean toward the suggestion that the convention be held before that of the Democratic party in St. Louis on June 14, but there had been no canvas of members. Opinion was divided. The claims of the contesting cities will be presented at length when the committee meets tomorrow. From indications tonight politicians were inclined to believe that the meeting would not last more than a few hours and the committee would be adjourned at night with its work completed. It was reported that a majority of the committee on hand which frames the formal notice of the convention, favored St. Louis but this could not be confirmed.

Two of the important meetings today were those of the committees on call and apportionment. The committee on apportionment decided it would abide by the action of the national committee two years ago in reducing the number of southern delegates to the convention. This decision was reached with the approval of two members of the national committee from southern states. This was said tonight by committee officials to mean that the convention will have 985 members instead of 1078 as in 1909.

New York is the only northern state to lose delegates. The committee on call will abide by the laws of the several states, including those which select delegates by primaries, but it reserves the right where the law disfranchises the Republican party to leave the final decision as to the seating of delegates with the national committee. About 600 of the delegates to the convention will be chosen at primaries and the other 385 at state conventions.

On the eve of the meeting of the committee the League of Republican State Clubs and the National Republican league held a banquet tonight with Senators Weeks and Sherman. John Hays Hammond and Henry D. Estabrook as the principal speakers.

Pitched Battle.
"From the viewpoint of an innocent bystander," philosophically remarked the old codger, "I believe that the keenest competition I know of occurs when two chronic dyspeptics get together and compare their symptoms."
—Judge.

RUSSIANS SINK TURKISH GUNBOAT

Disabled and Set on Fire by Shells
From Torpedo Boats After an
Hour's Engagement

Petrograd, Dec. 13.—Details have been received of the destruction of two Turkish gunboats near the island of Kerken in the Black sea, about sixty miles east of the entrance to the Bosphorus by three Russian torpedo boats under the command of Captain Count Troubetsch.

After a battle of an hour the gunboats were disabled and also had been set on fire by Russian shells. An explosion on board one ship of

the Malatia type led to the belief that she carried mines. The other gunboat lowered her flag before the end of the battle. A Turkish submarine arrived off the island during the fighting but was put to flight by the Russian fire.

The Russians proceeded to the estuary of the Sakaria river, a short distance eastward, where they sunk a coal laden Turkish ship.

Applause at a Concert.
"You seem to enjoy the heavy Wagnerian numbers on the program?" "I don't." "Then why do you applaud so strongly?" "I want to hear the pretty little pieces they always play for encores."

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